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cities in delaying or interfering with the economic development of improvements. Society may be paying too much for the speculator's services in holding land for higher prices.

One phase of the land question, which is not generally given sufficient emphasis is that the provision of improved land credit facilities is but a partial solution of the land problem. Investigations as to farm incomes carried on by the United States government indicate that, at the present time, the tenant gets a much better rate of interest on his investments than does the owner.¹ Land today has a speculative value which a lowering of interest rates through state aid or coöperation would tend to increase. Some strong inducement must be given the owner who wishes to retire to sell to some one else who wishes to live on the land and operate it. Landowner operation has been the justification of private property in land and unless some other basis is found for that justification, conditions must be so controlled that the land operator will continue to be the owner of the land he operates.

As a whole the bulletin is typical of the kind of work needed in every state. When such work is done in other states there will be a much better foundation for the teaching of agricultural economics.

PAUL L. VOGT.

Ohio State University.

Swamp Land Drainage with Special Reference to Minnesota. By BEN PALMER. The University of Minnesota Studies in the Social Sciences, No. 5. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota. 1915. Pp. 138.)

In the introduction to this study the author estimates "that there are in the United States today approximately 80,000,000 acres of swamp and overflowed lands, an area of unproductive land greater than the Philippine Islands and nearly three times as large as Great Britain and Ireland." The benefits to be derived from land drainage are as follows:

(1) A greater certainty of a full crop on agricultural lands, because of a reduction in the damaging effect of frost on vegetation; (2) an increase in the yield per acre, with a corresponding permanent increase in the market value of the land; (3) improvement of public highways; (4) benefits to transportation companies because of the increase in freight tonnage due to the raising of more agricultural products; (5) benefits to towns near drained districts because of increased business; (6) benefits to railroad companies due to decrease in cost of maintaining trackage, as result of lessening of damages caused by floods and by

¹ Bull. No. 41, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

softening of roadbeds; (7) improvement in public health, due to the elimination of fever and disease breeding swamps and marshes (p. 3).

The country whose government has given the most attention to land drainage is Holland. Other countries for which the drainage situation is discussed are France, Great Britain, Ireland, Austria, Prussia, Russia, Denmark, Greece, Norway, Sweden, Algeria, Australia, and Mexico. The survey shows that European countries, with the probable exception of Russia, have not been backward in the work of swamp land reclamation by public action.

Swamp Land Reclamation in States other than Minnesota is the title of the third chapter. The different states are taken up separately, and are considered with respect to their own particular problems. Florida has more overflowed land than any other state in the union, and is discussed first. Illinois, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Michigan, Wisconsin, California, Texas, Alabama, Indiana, Virginia, Tennessee, South Dakota, Iowa, Utah, Oklahoma, Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming, are taken up in the order named. The greatest amount of reclamation work has been done in Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, and Michigan. About one sixth of the original swamp land of the United States has been drained. In some states the constitutions expressly give the legislature power to pass acts; but even in the absence of constitutional authorization the courts have sustained legislation as a valid exercise of the police and taxing powers and of the power of eminent domain.

The last three chapters are a discussion of the drainage question in Minnesota: The Development of Drainage Legislation; Drainage Procedure; Swamp Land Reclamation. Public drainage works already constructed have reclaimed over 7,000,000 of the 10,000,000 acres of swamp lands in Minnesota originally too wet for cultivation. This work has been done at a cost of \$13,700,000, or about two dollars an acre. Although the assessed benefits amount to \$24,675,000, and show a return of about two dollars for every dollar invested, yet the actual direct benefit to landowners has been estimated at from five to eight dollars for every dollar expended in drainage (p. 98).

The appendix contains: (1) drainage statutes of states other than Minnesota; (2) drainage laws of Minnesota; (3) drainage work in Minnesota; (5) authorities; and (6) table of cases.

C. W. WASSAM.

State University of Iowa.